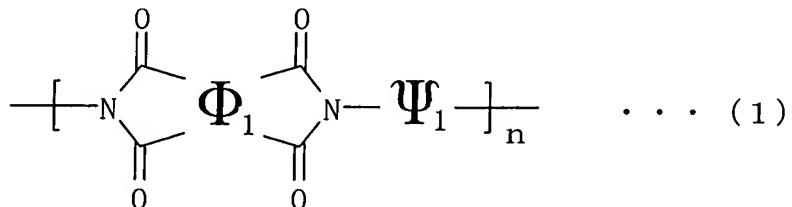


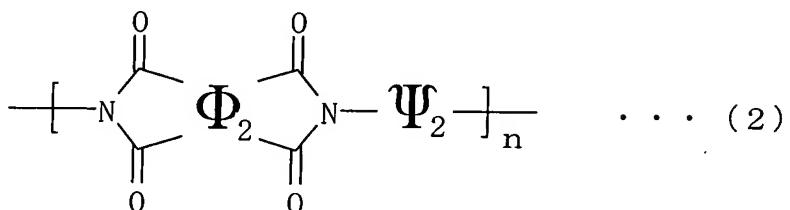
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

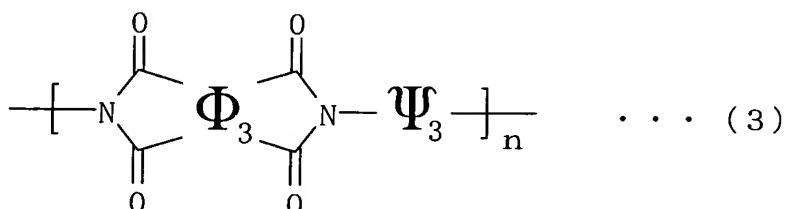
Claim 1 (Original): A polyimide optical material, comprising heterocyclic polyimide having an unit represented by the following general formula (1), (2) or (3):



(wherein Φ_1 s are the same or different and are individually a quadrivalent organic group, the Φ_1 s including at least 0.2 molar equivalent of a quadrivalent heterocyclic group selected from the following Group (a); Ψ_1 s may be the same or different and are individually a bivalent organic group; and n is a positive integer),



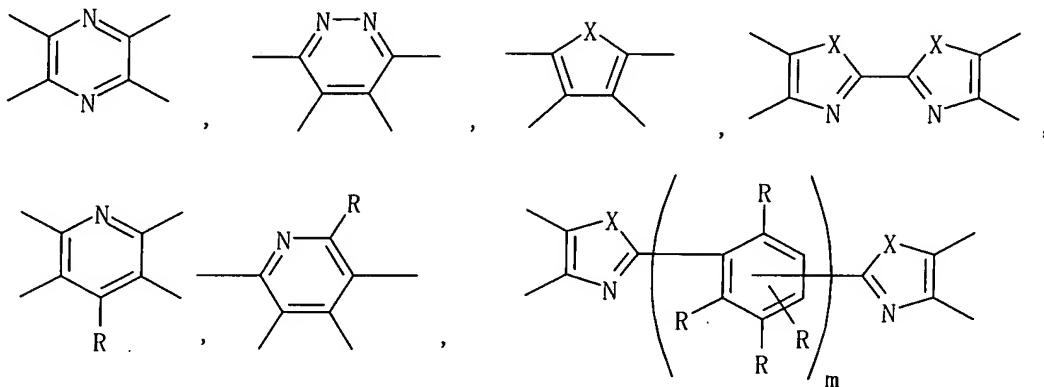
(wherein Φ_2 s are the same or different and are individually a quadrivalent organic group; Ψ_2 s may be the same or different and are individually a bivalent organic group, the Ψ_2 s including at least 0.2 molar equivalent of a bivalent heterocyclic group selected from the following Group (b); and n is a positive integer).



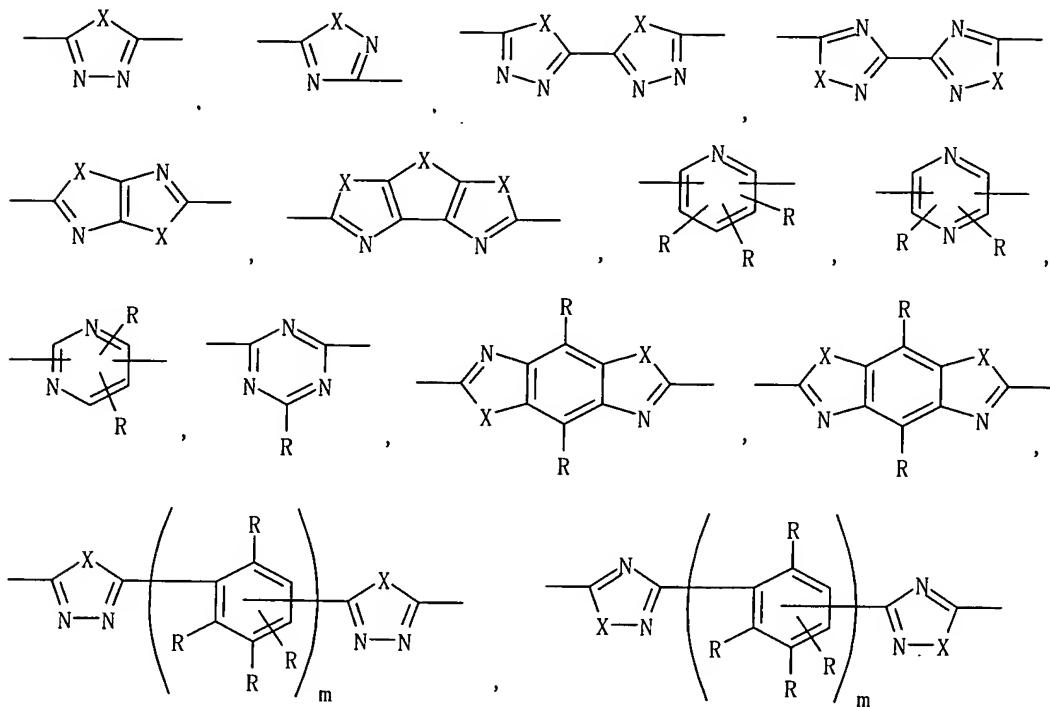
(wherein Φ_3 s are the same or different and are individually a quadrivalent organic group, the Φ_3 s including at least 0.1 molar equivalent of a quadrivalent heterocyclic group

selected from the following Group (a); Ψ_3 s may be the same or different and are individually a bivalent organic group, the Ψ_3 s including at least 0.1 molar equivalent of a bivalent heterocyclic group selected from the following Group (b); and n is a positive integer):

Group (a):



Group (b):

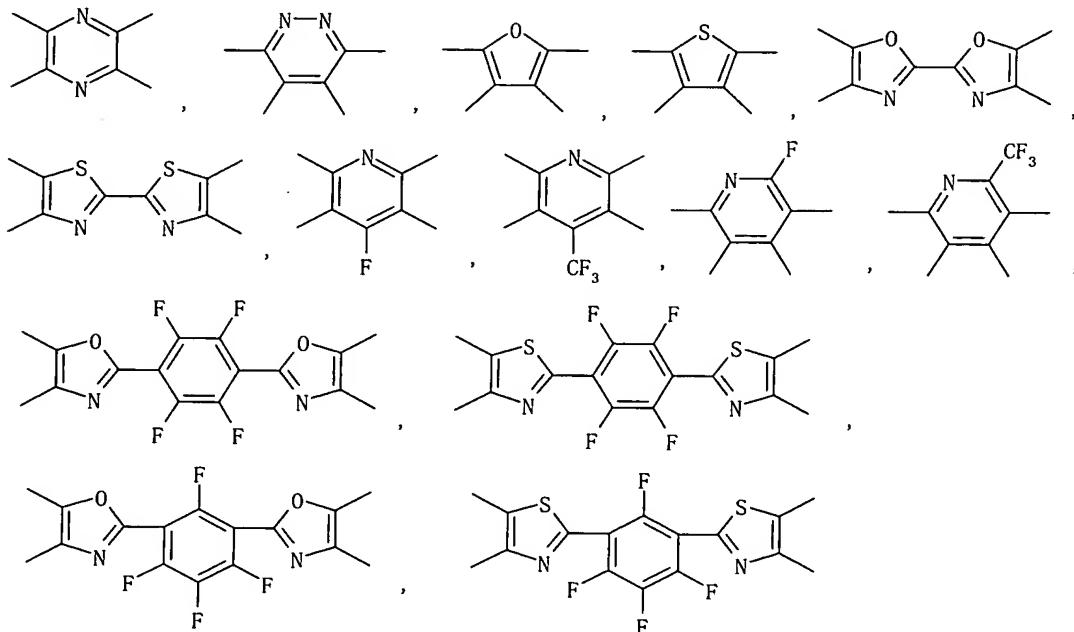


(In the above formulas, Xs are the same or different and are individually >O group, >S group or >N-R^f group (R^f group is perfluoroalkyl group); R are the same or different and are individually fluoro group, chloro group, bromo group, iodo group, perfluoroalkyl group, perfluoroalkoxy group, perfluoroalkylthio group, nitro group or cyano group; m is an integer of 1 to 4).

Claim 2 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 1, wherein the polyimide optical material is formed of a compound represented by the general formula (1).

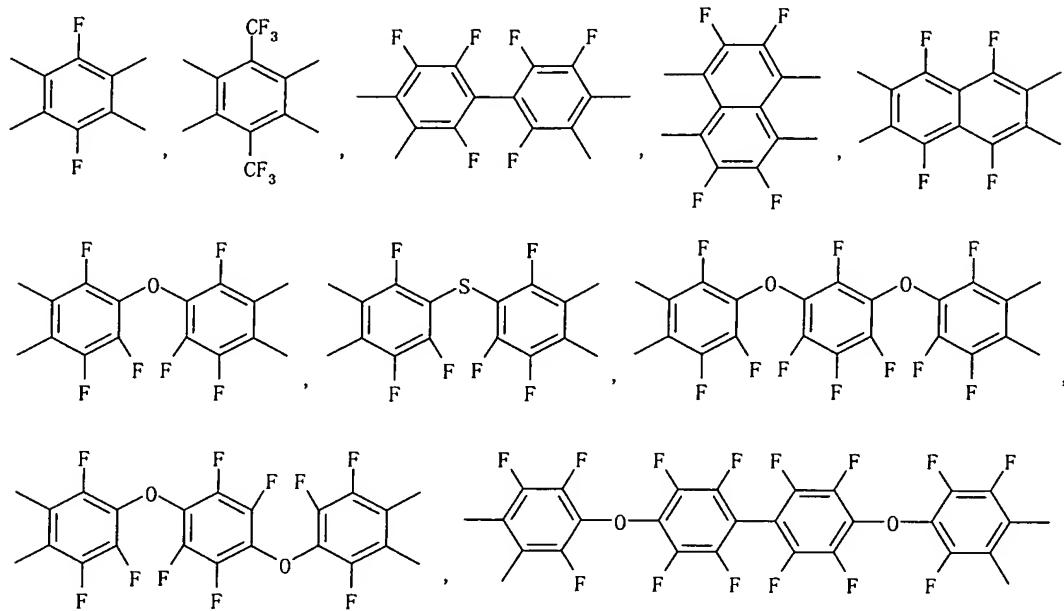
Claim 3 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 2, wherein the quadrivalent heterocyclic group selected from the Group (a) are the groups shown in the following Group (c):

Group (c):



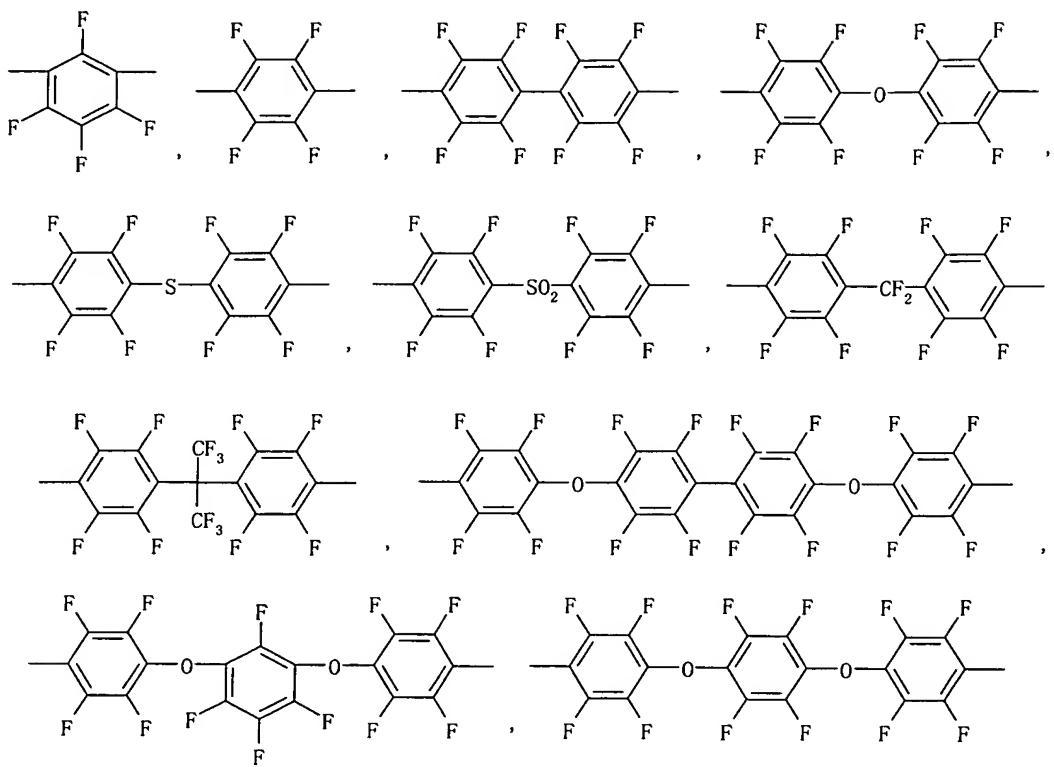
Claim 4 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 2, wherein the balance of the Φ_1 s is selected from the quadrivalent fluorine-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups shown in the following Group (e):

Group (e):



Claim 5 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 2, wherein the bivalent organic groups Ψ_1 s are selected from the bivalent fluorine-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups shown in the following Group (f):

Group (f):

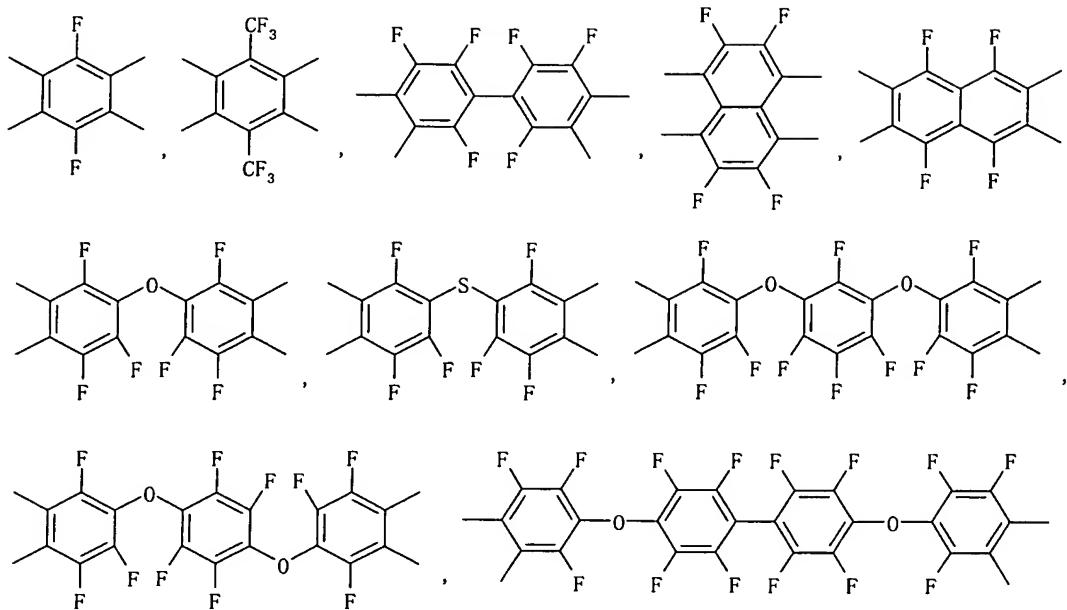


Claim 6 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 2, wherein the content of fluorine atoms in the unit represented by the general formula (1) is confined within the range of 5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 7 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 1, wherein the polyimide optical material is formed of a compound represented by the general formula (2).

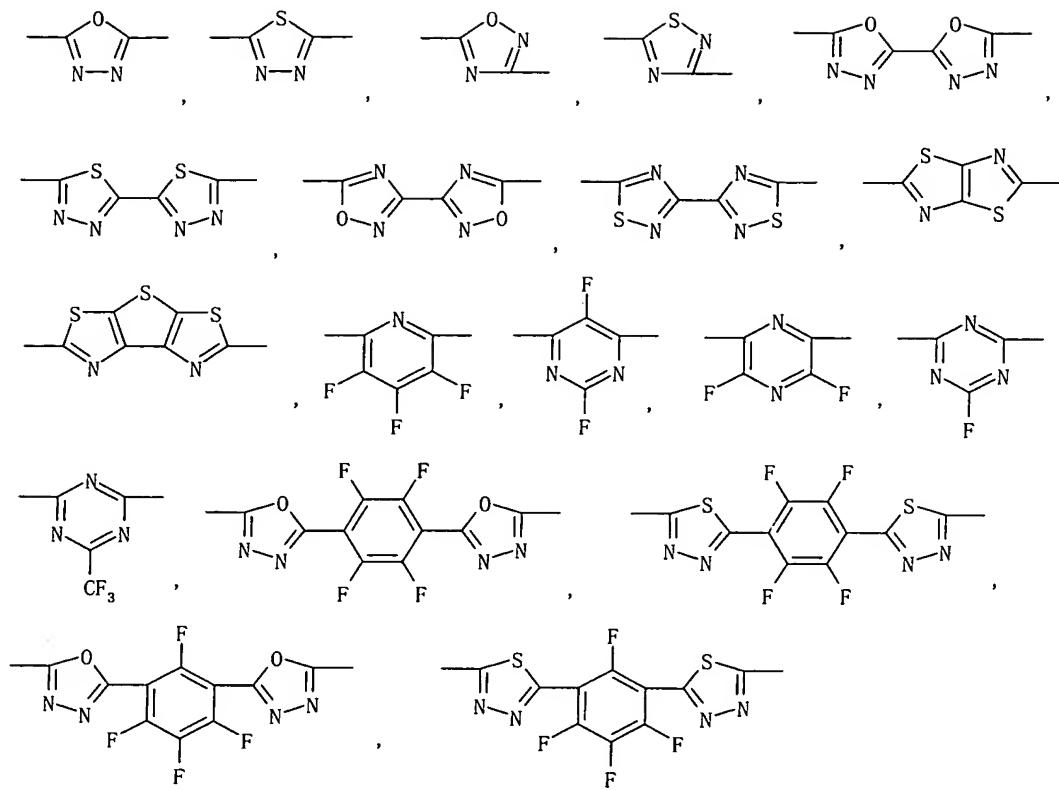
Claim 8 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 7, wherein the bivalent heterocyclic group of the Group (b) are the quadrivalent fluorine-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups shown in the following Group (e):

Group (e):



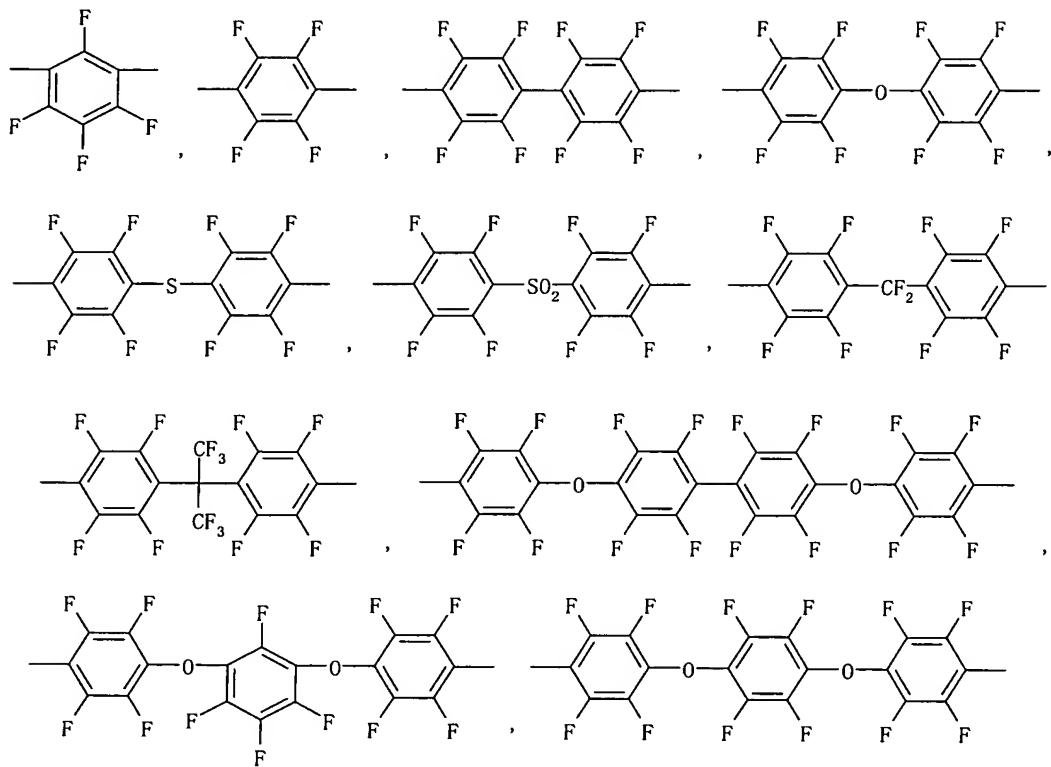
Claim 9 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 7, wherein the bivalent heterocyclic group of the Group (b) are the bivalent aromatic heterocyclic groups shown in the following Group (d):

Group (d):



Claim 10 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 7, wherein the balance of the Ψ_2 s is selected from the bivalent fluorine-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups shown in the following Group (f):

Group (f):

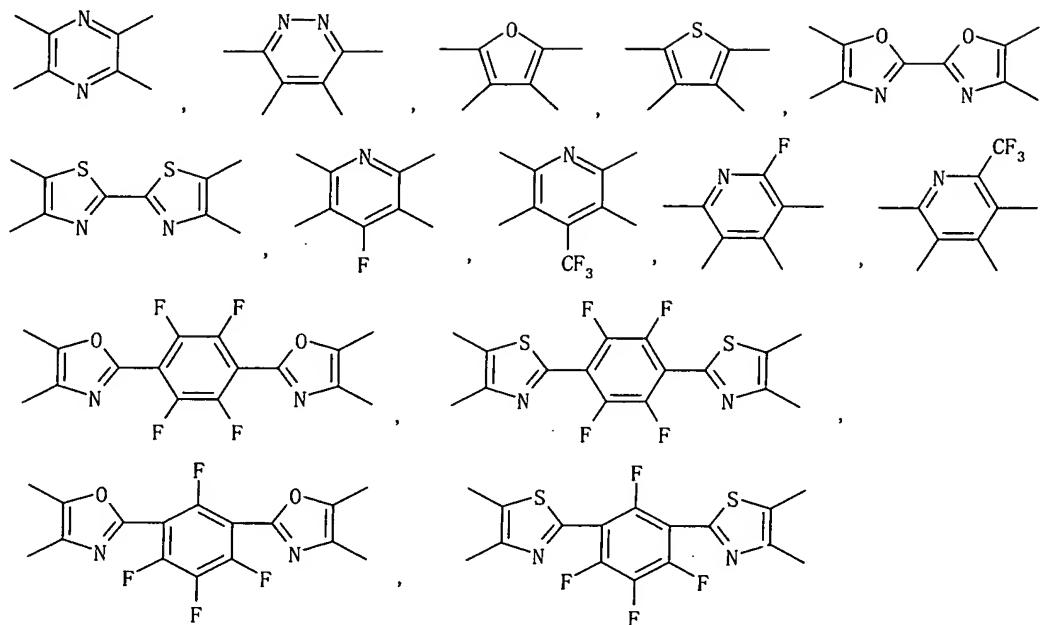


Claim 11 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 7, wherein the content of fluorine atoms in the unit represented by the general formula (2) is confined within the range of 5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 12 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 1, wherein the polyimide optical material is formed of a compound represented by the general formula (3).

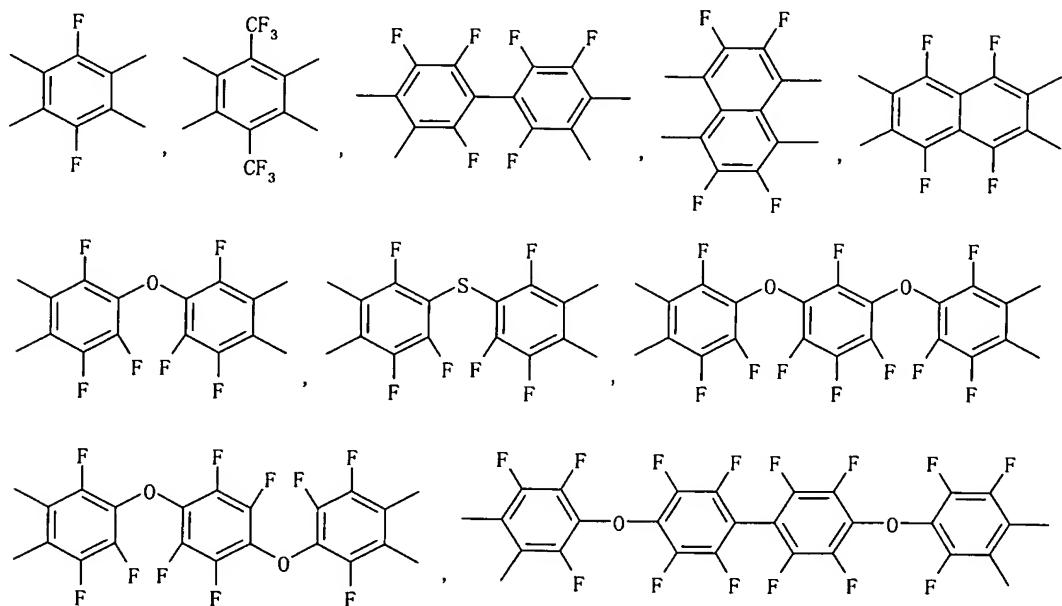
Claim 13 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 12, wherein the quadrivalent heterocyclic groups of the Group (a) are the quadrivalent aromatic heterocyclic groups shown in the following Group (c):

Group (c):



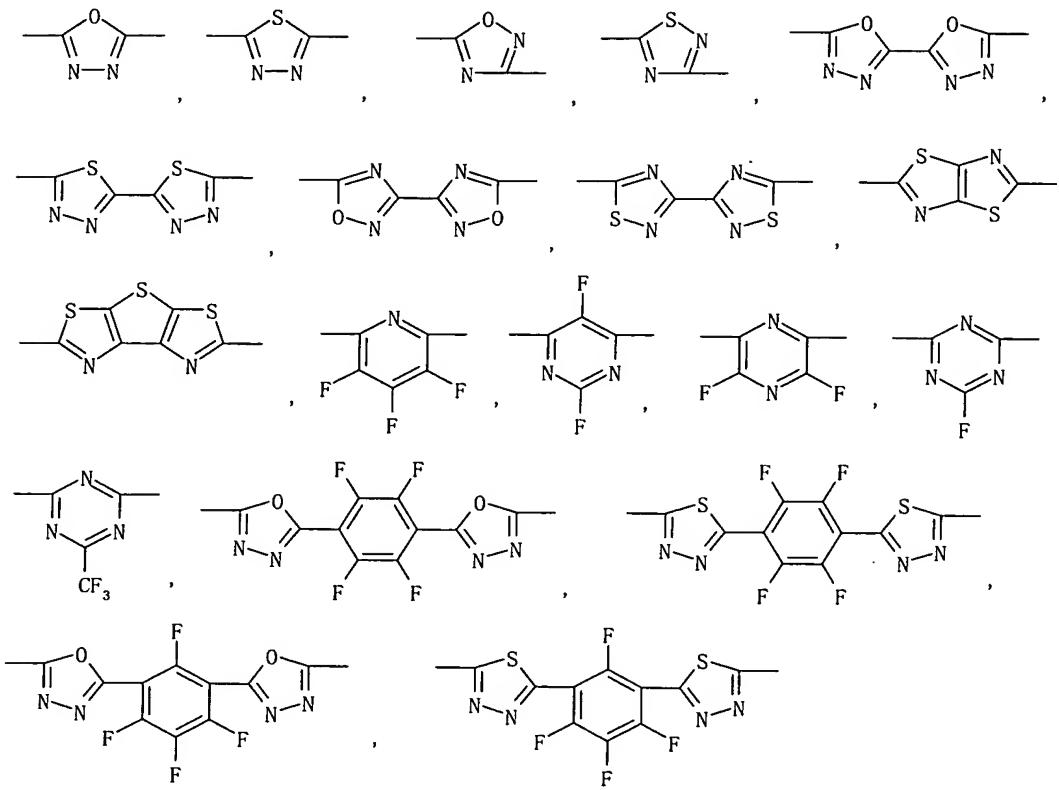
Claim 14 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 12, wherein the balance of the Φ_3 s is selected from quadrivalent fluorine-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups shown in the following Group (e):

Group (e):



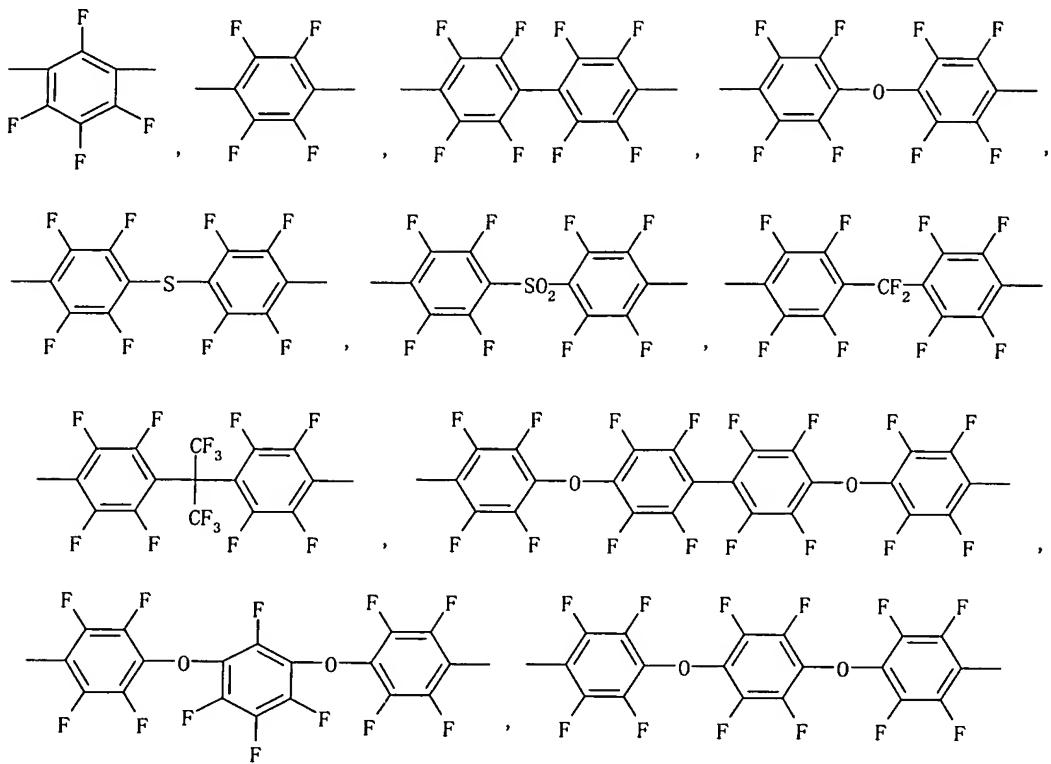
Claim 15 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 12, wherein the bivalent heterocyclic group of the Group (b) are the bivalent aromatic heterocyclic groups shown in the following Group (d):

Group (d):



Claim 16 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 12, wherein the balance of the Ψ_3 s is selected from the bivalent fluorine-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups shown in the following Group (f):

Group (f):



Claim 17 (Original): The polyimide optical material according to claim 12, wherein the content of fluorine atoms in the unit represented by the general formula (3) is confined within the range of 5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Original): An optical waveguide element comprising a core layer and a clad layer, wherein the core layer and/or the clad layer contain the polyimide optical material claimed in claim 1.